

THE STANDARD

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

I want to start by saying THANK YOU to all the cadre and their family for all the work and support that you all give to the mission of OCS: producing officers for our Army. Your commitment is unparalleled and I am amazed every day at how much this organization accomplishes! I continually receive messages from the chain of command, alumni and peers applauding our efforts to improve OCS and generate stellar Second Lieutenants.

The historic Nett Hall went through significant renovations these past few months and the project is nearing completion. We can't wait to reopen this building. COL (R) Nett continues to be our most ardent supporter and this building is but a small token of appreciation that is due this great mentor of the Officer Candidate School.

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“STANDARDS! NO COMPROMISE!!”

...From the Commander, continued.

At the end of March we conducted the 2006 OCS Hall of Fame Induction. The battalion did a tremendous job in orchestrating the multiple events that are involved with this. Our cadre and candidates made the diner, breakfast, tours, ceremony and final reception one of the best Hall of Fame events to date. All inductees and visitors were ecstatic with respect for the professionalism of this event. I would like to single out the efforts of CPT Hammonds for her incredible performance as the overall OIC for the Hall of Fame Event. I would also like to thank the OCS Alumni Association for their hosting of the final reception.

Our Newest Company, Echo Company, graduated 156 Officers. This was one of the largest numbers of officers to be commissioned from an OCS company in recent history. When you couple this with the fact that this was the first class of a brand new company, it makes this a significant accomplishment. Congratulations are in order for the cadre of Echo Company.

As we glide through May and into June we will have the changing of command of 5 of our 6 companies. This is the result of normal PCSs and the promotion to Major of several of our officers. These changes of command will be sad from the perspective of some great officers moving out of OCS but as is always the case in the Army, new players will step up to the plate and continue the mission of this great battalion. I am excited for the new opportunities for those officers both leaving and entering into these companies.

The Army hosted the Spring JMAC here at Ft. Benning on 13 May. Significant training ensured continued victory for the Army team at this great event. We were glad to see many OCS families come out to watch this competition and share in the camaraderie afforded by having the Navy and Air Force here visiting Ft. Benning. The success of this event came under the watch of CPT Perez, the overall OIC for Spring JMAC.

Thanks again for all that you do every day! Linda and I continue to be blessed to be part of this tremendous OCS Team!

STANDARDS, NO COMPROMISE!

LTC Curtis J. Carson

Battalion Commander

ALPHA COMPANY

Alpha Company conducted a change of command on 22 February 2006. CPT John Dixon relinquished command to me, CPT Doug Smith. I wish CPT Dixon and his wife Brenda good luck as he attends the Captain's Career Course here at Fort Benning. I am coming from the 36th Engineer Group here on post. I bring with me my wife Shari, and three children, Heather, Scott, and Sarah.

I would like to take a moment and recognize the team here at Alpha Company. The current cadre has made me feel welcome and helped me with transition. The newer faces here are CPT Scott Shirk, 1st Platoon Trainer. CPT Shirk comes to us from the Infantry Captain's Career Course and is married to his wife Rachael who is expecting their second child in July. CPT Kevin Leitch, Company Senior Trainer, has recently returned from a tour in Qatar. His son Devin, who is nine, lives with him here at Fort Benning. SSG Davis, 4th Platoon Trainer, comes to us from drill sergeant duty at Sand Hill. He is married to his wife Manuela and has three children, Daniela, Toni, and Noah. I would like to welcome all of our new families. I could not ask for a better team to start a new cycle.

Alpha Company picked up class 05-06 on 13 March 2006 with 139 officer candidates. As of this date they are in their second week of training and adjusting to life here at OCS. I am sure that this class will excel under the watchful eye of their platoon trainers. At the next newsletter I will be able to tell you more of their accomplishments.

CPT Douglas Smith
A Co Commander



Editor's Note: At the time of publication, Alpha Company had progressed to FLX II-III.

BRAVO COMPANY

We graduated 120 Second Lieutenants on 23 February 2006. The class originally started with 132 officer candidates. I would like to thank our cadre for their excellent work during the previous cycle. We are currently in our cycle break sending our cadre to various classes and certifications as well as prepping for our next pickup.

We are now finished with the first four weeks of our current class, 06-06. We picked up 160 candidates on 10 April and are scheduled to graduate on 13 July.

We only have one farewell at this time. Our temporary XO, 2LT Del Toro has moved to Germany. He has done excellent work for us over the past 5 months and will be an asset to his new unit. The rest of our cadre should stay intact until after this class graduates. I would like to congratulate a couple of former Bravo Company cadre, CPT Craft and CPT Rose. Both of these will soon take command here in OCS.

Standards. No Compromise.

MAJ Robert Wiggins
B Co Commander



“STANDARDS!

CHARLIE COMPANY

The C CO Rough Riders are on the move again and we are mounting up for what we believe to be a successful cycle. In the last newsletter we discussed preparation and a new command team along with new cadre who just stepped on board. Currently, we are 12 cadre strong and are motivated as we have the expectation to produce young quality officers that will be commissioned after a challenging cycle. C CO class (04-06) has hit the ground running and conducted its class opening ceremony on 24 Feb 06.

From start to finish thus far I must say that I am satisfied as a company commander in all that has been accomplished in reference to training and mission accomplishment. In the beginning of each cycle the first several weeks of OCS are pretty intense with multiple training events that not only challenge our candidates but cadre as well. To no avail have I been let down by the planning and execution conducted by the staff and trainers in this regard. From CWST to LRC, Bolton Obstacle Course, numerous foot marches and Land Navigation which resulted in a 100% pass rate we are grateful and do not take lightly the experiences and lessons learned that have enabled us to become a better unit.

During FLX I, we focused on individual, fire team, and squad collective training. The candidates were motivated and I believe we were up to the challenge. As the unit continued to march we prepared for our last culminating exercise which was FLX II.

FLX II proved to be a much more challenging event as we planned, coordinated, and executed multiple training events such as Squad Lanes, FOB Operations, MOUT familiarization training and participated in Convoy Trainer Operations. Recently, the company completed the Senior Status Inspection followed by the Senior Status Review. Our Candidates are on their way to graduation and have definitely worked very hard.

I want to personally thank Chaplain Thompson for assisting us by visiting our company and supporting our field exercises this cycle. I greatly appreciate all the continued support from all the families of our entire cadre for without you we would not be all that we are today in an effort to train these future officers.

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Lastly, I want to thank the all the other companies and the battalion headquarters for your continued support. You have made a valued difference for me along with many others in the unit.

ROUGH RIDERS...LEAD FROM THE FRONT!

MAJ Mark Danner

Charlie Company Commander



DELTA COMPANY

D Company started Class 03-06 on January 30th, and we have been running full speed since. It is always a special honor to watch these Soldiers from multiple backgrounds and experience transform into future Second Lieutenants within our Army. The OCs have already completed over half of their training, including a run through the Confidence Obstacle Course, Combat Water Survival Training, Land Navigation, a myriad of classes, the Leadership Reaction Course, and a week in the field learning basic individual and collective Infantry fundamentals. They successfully completed two more weeks in the field with FLX II/III, and had additional classes and mentor sessions, and additional physical training to complement their transformation into officers. Class 03-06 graduated May 14th.

My Executive Officer, 1LT Sonya Long, gave birth to a little girl, Ellie Nicole on the 8th of March. Mother and daughter are doing very well. Our best to the Long family. SSG Gregory and his wife are expecting their first child any day now. Dana and I found out last month that we will be expecting "Baby Nalls number five" in October. I guess there is something in the water here at Fort Benning.

I want to welcome SFC Torres and his family to the ranks of the "Mighty Dawg Company." He is joining us from IBCT on Sand Hill, and is already making a huge positive impact on our company.

CPT John Nalls

Echo Company Commander



We bid CPT Nalls a fond farewell, on learning that he recently received PCS orders.

ECHO COMPANY

E Company has been moving forward over the past quarter and has made significant strides in some challenging events.

We were able to complete Land Navigation with a 100% passing rate after a wet and muddy week. Before we headed into FLX I, the candidates were able to complete quality training on Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) and First Aid. Once we got to the field for FLX I, the candidates learned about patrol bases, hand grenades, a variety of weapons systems, Call for Fire techniques, radios, Individual Movement Techniques (IMT), and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). We capped off this field exercise with a 7-mile foot-march and squad competition. This set the glide path for the next big hurdle, FLX II/III. During these two weeks we were able to work on a variety of squad and platoon battle drills. The candidates also became familiar with Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) and Forward Operating Base (FOB) techniques. During this training candidates got a taste of what it might be like in foreign lands with insurgents lurking around the corners.

Upon completion of both of these FLXs, the candidates were able to successfully complete their recovery inspections and prepare for senior phase. The candidates completed a very challenging physical training morning when they were able to don their Senior Status scarves and begin to see what it will be like as a 2LT in the United States Army. On 27 March 06 the candidates successfully completed their Senior Status Review in front of the post commander and other 11th INF Regiment leadership.

At last, on 13 April 2006, we graduated 155 new Second Lieutenants.

MAJ Ray Ferguson
Echo Company Commander



On 09 May, CPT John Craft took command of Echo Company. MAJ Ferguson will be the BN S3 when MAJ Williams PCSes. Good luck to each of these men as they assume new duties.



HHC

Greetings to everyone from HHC.

The Soldiers and DA Civilians in HHC continue their outstanding work behind the scenes for OCS to ensure the battalion is able to commission Lieutenants for the total Army. We want to congratulate and farewell SSG Smith who graduated Drill Sergeant School in March and WO1 (formerly SSG) Kinsey who graduated the Warrant Officer School in March. We also want to congratulate and farewell CPT Cole who gave birth to the newest member of the Cole family and is leaving for duty with 36th Engineer Group here on post. Lastly, we bid farewell to SPC Farrier as he moves to E Co.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Cadre, DA Civilians and families of HHC who made my command here a great experience. I leave in June to move up to Fort Bragg after a long time and many assignments here at Fort Benning. CPT Angela Lambom will be in command following her post-natal leave. I wish you all the best of luck in everything you undertake and hope to see you in the future.

MAJ David Daniels
HHC Commander





SIGHTINGS



A candidate shows off a "letter" from home.



Workers put finishing touches on Nett Hall's exterior.



MAJ Daniels swears in a brand new Second Lieutenant.



Candidates clean the cannon for the OCS Hall of Fame.



Mothers-to-be CPTs Hammonds and Lamborn



A Major Event: Captains Danner, Ferguson, Perez, and Wiggins are promoted to Major on 30 March.

COMMUNITY

Army Emergency Relief (AER) can assist with essential repairs on a Soldier's POV. In addition, AER can assist with routine maintenance; oil changes, tune ups, replacement of brakes or tires. Soldiers deploying should ensure their spouse is left with a safe and properly operating POV.

A spouse of a deployed Soldier may receive AER assistance with a Power of Attorney.

Point of contact: Lionel L. Grant, Army Emergency Relief Officer, 545-4043/2536.

TAKE IN SOME THEATRE

THE SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE OFFERS REGULARLY SCHEDULED TOURS EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 3:30 P.M. TICKETS ARE \$5 AND MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE SPRINGER BOX OFFICE. HOURS ARE 10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M., MON-FRI.

FOR INFORMATION ON **WEEKDAY PERFORMANCES FOR SCHOOL GROUPS** - CALL AMY BISHOP AT 706.324.1100.

TICKETS FOR FOLEY HALL PERFORMANCES OF SPRINGER CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRODUCTIONS ARE \$8 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN. TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CALL THE SPRINGER BOX OFFICE AT 706.327.3688. YOU MAY ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.TICKETS.COM



OCS SPOUSES COFFEE GROUP

If you are interested in being a member of the OCS Coffee Group that meets once a quarter, please send your personal e-mail address to Linda Carson at armyrats@yahoo.com.

Officer Candidate School Wins Spring JMAC

OCS hosted the Spring Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC) on 13 May at Fort Benning's historic Doughboy Stadium. Once again, OCS emerged from the competition victorious, with the Air Force and Navy in second and third place, respectively.

Events included: the 3-Mile Run, the Super Physical Fitness Test (PFT) consisting of Push-Ups, Crunches, Pull-Ups, 2-Mile Run; the Physical Fitness Test Relay (Male and Female); Volleyball; the Stretcher Carry; the Tug of War; and the 4 x 400 Relay. A 3 x .5 Mile Relay will serve as a tie breaker if necessary.

Initiated by the Air Force in 1994, JMAC is an athletic competition between OCS, and the Air Force and Navy Officer Training Schools, designed to foster esprit de corps and promote camaraderie between the branches. It also provides Joint Awareness Training to future officers of the armed forces. The Army's first appearance at the biannual event was in 1998.

The next Fall JMAC will be hosted by the Air Force in Montgomery, AL at Maxwell Air Force Base.



The JMAC trophy, a.k.a. "The Bomb," rests comfortably in 3-11th IN Headquarters. Although it did not make a statement for this article, it is widely believed to be happy to remain with the victorious 3-11th.

PASTOR'S PEN

Given the hectic OPTEMPO around here, it is vital to have a good PT program and regular fun to ensure good physical and mental health. Yet there is another kind of fitness that can sadly fall by the wayside when stress and responsibilities increase: spiritual fitness. You may find it ironic, but when I have to make a double effort to ensure my spiritual fitness is good as I focus more and more on ensuring the spiritual health of the unit. Chaplains are not immune to lulls in our spirits. We are just like everyone else (there, I said it)! To stay in spiritual shape, I have another PT program in which P stands for "prayer." A few times a day, I pause and pray, using devotions from my own religious tradition. It helps me recharge my spiritual batteries and refocus my spirit—but also my mind and my body. If I were not intentional about it, my spirit would then suffer, and the rest of me would follow suit.

I doubt I'm alone in this. We all are working very hard to accomplish our mission. It is easy to forget about spiritual fitness when we find ourselves spread thin. But spiritual fitness is a vital component in our overall fitness and performance, even if it doesn't have its own line in the Soldier's Creed. As our mission continues and we continue to work hard to complete it, let's remember to take care of our whole selves, striving to be disciplined, physically, mentally, and spiritually tough. If you would like advice on how to build your spiritual fitness—whether by prayer or by other means in your own tradition—feel free to contact me, and together we'll explore what works for you.

CH Eric Thompson
BN Chaplain

